

**TOWN OF DAVIE**  
**TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM/PHONE:** Barbara McDaniel, MMC, Assistant Town Clerk/954-797-1023

**PREPARED BY:** Barbara McDaniel, MMC, Assistant Town Clerk/954-797-1023

**SUBJECT:** June 19, 2008 minutes

**AFFECTED DISTRICT:** n/a

**ITEM REQUEST:** **Schedule for Council Meeting**

**TITLE OF AGENDA ITEM:** June 19, 2008 (Workshop Meeting)

**REPORT IN BRIEF:** Council minutes from the June 19, 2008 Council meeting.

**PREVIOUS ACTIONS:** n/a

**CONCURRENCES:** n/a

**FISCAL IMPACT:** not applicable

Has request been budgeted? n/a

**RECOMMENDATION(S):** Motion to approve

**Attachment(s):** June 19, 2008 minutes

**TOWN OF DAVIE  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
JUNE 19, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Truex, Vice-Mayor Luis (arrived at 12:10 p.m.), Councilmembers Caletka, Crowley and Starkey. Also present were Town Administrator Shimun, Town Attorney Rayson, and Assistant Town Clerk McDaniel recording the meeting.

Budget & Finance Director William Ackerman provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2009 fiscal year budget and explained that departments had been asked to submit budget saving ideas to be incorporated. He reminded Council that this was not the final document and this meeting was to solicit Council's input.

Mr. Ackerman discussed recent reductions in the State budget and revenue and noted the problem this presented because residents did not want to see a decrease in services. He recited several items that had resulted in a reduction in the Town's revenue, such as Amendment 1, which had a \$2.1 million impact on the Town's revenue.

Mr. Ackerman reported that the two main goals identified at the goal setting session had been to maintain a level of service to the community and maintain current staffing levels. He did not anticipate any layoffs or any reduction in services.

Mr. Ackerman said the proposed millage rate was 4.2487, an increase from their current millage rate of 4.1215. He assured Council that the new millage rate was compliant with all State requirements. Even with this increase, Mr. Ackerman advised that there would still be a revenue reduction. Mr. Ackerman explained that with Council's two-thirds vote, they could recalculate the rate to 5.0167 using the rollback rate and some allowable increases. This would result in a \$60 million increase in revenue.

Regarding the impact on the average homeowner, Mr. Ackerman said that each homeowner would save approximately \$75 on the Town's portion of the tax bill.

Mr. Ackerman said there were options that Council could consider for additional revenue. The first was the highway cost recovery fee, which would have no impact on Town residents and could net the Town \$700,000. The second revenue source to consider was the 10% water utility tax. This would impact all Town residents, at an average of \$2-\$3 per month, which would net the Town \$1.4 million. Mr. Ackerman said both of these options were allowed by the State.

Mr. Ackerman indicated that staff's proposal included some reorganization. Among those changes were:

- merge the Code Enforcement Division with the Police Department
- merge the Building Division with the Fire Department
- Engineering and the Planning and Zoning Division would report directly to the Town Administrator
- reduce Public Works staff without layoffs
- restructure Public Works to be a more "flat" organization

- move the Urban Forester position to Public Works
- downsize Parks and Recreation
- possible outsourcing of Parks and Recreation programs

Mr. Ackerman explained that there would be minor immediate savings with this type of reorganization, but he hoped that after a year, they would see more potential savings.

Mr. Ackerman stated 22 full-time vacant positions and 2 part-time seasonal vacant positions would be eliminated and three additional full-time vacant positions would be frozen or unfunded. He reiterated there would be no layoffs.

Mr. Ackerman said Council could also consider adjusting the policies for vehicle allowances and take-home vehicles. He indicated that if they reduced the number of auto allowances by 7 and take-home vehicles by 38, this could result in a savings of \$93,000 in fuel costs. Mr. Ackerman pointed out that there would also be less wear and tear on the cars and fewer insurance claims.

Mr. Ackerman referred to the General Fund expenditures by department and noted there were no significant changes from the previous year.

Regarding the fire assessment, Mr. Ackerman said the study was being conducted and he hoped to have the results in the near future. They had budgeted at the \$104 per resident rate.

Mr. Ackerman drew Council's attention to the page in the budget book titled "Budget Items for Council Consideration" which listed the possible new revenue sources: the new rate for ad valorem taxes; the highway cost recovery fee; the 10% utility tax; and the fire assessment. He asked Council to identify three of these items to implement in order to balance the proposed budget.

Mayor Truex did not agree with the increased millage rate because residents had voted for a tax cut. He favored the highway cost recovery fee, provided it pertained only to major incidents. Mr. Rayson confirmed that it was legal to charge the fee to non-residents only. Mayor Truex did not favor the utility tax and he wanted the fire assessment to remain the same.

Councilmember Caletka acknowledged that residents had voted for tax reduction and said they knew this would result in a reduced level of service. He believed some Town employees must be laid off or services had to be reduced. The alternative would be to implement some of Mr. Ackerman's suggestions for increasing their revenue, all of which he opposed.

Vice-Mayor Luis said he would only consider increasing the millage rate if they could not balance the budget any other way, including lay-offs. He favored the highway cost recovery fee because he believed "these services are utilized more often than not by non-residents who aren't paying for them." Vice-Mayor Luis objected to the utility tax and wanted to leave the fire assessment where it was. Regarding lay offs, Vice-Mayor Luis felt Council must consider this to balance the budget.

Councilmember Crowley said he would remain open minded regarding the millage rate increase because he did not want to consider lay offs. He asked staff to provide Council with a list of positions in each department that would be eliminated, if it became necessary. Councilmember Crowley supported the highway cost recovery fee

and opposed the utility tax. He said he would also remain open regarding an increase in the fire assessment.

Councilmember Starkey supported the highway cost recovery fee and lacking any specific water project, she opposed the utility tax because the rates had recently been raised. Councilmember Starkey said she would keep an open mind regarding increasing the fire assessment.

Council took an informal vote on each item and the results were:

- increasing as valorem: 4 “maybe” and 1 “no”
- highway cost recovery: 3 “yes,” 1 “no” and 1 “sometimes”
- utility tax: 4 “no” and 1 “maybe”
- increasing fire assessment 2 “maybe” and 3 “no”

Regarding the proposed reorganization, Councilmember Crowley requested a revised organizational chart for each proposal. Councilmember Starkey wanted to hear the rationale for the changes as well. Vice-Mayor Luis and Councilmember Caletka supported all of the proposed reorganizations. Mayor Truex requested a briefing regarding the reorganization.

Mayor Truex disagreed with moving the Building Division to the Fire Department because “the Fire Chief is only one person” and had his or her hands full with Fire Department business. He did not understand why Planning and Zoning should report directly to the Town Administrator in the proposed reorganization. Mayor Truex also opposed cutting any programs.

Regarding the proposal to eliminate all vacant positions, Councilmember Starkey said she wanted to know exactly which positions would be eliminated and the justification for their elimination in writing. Mr. Ackerman directed her to the list in the backup. Mayor Truex asked Mr. Shimun to prepare an explanation to distribute to Council.

Councilmember Caletka acknowledged that if they were not increasing revenue, they must decrease services.

Mayor Truex requested additional information regarding the seasonal positions that would be eliminated.

Vice-Mayor Luis said there was no way they could fill the vacant positions without additional revenue. He acknowledged that there was only so much money coming in. Mayor Truex said he would not want to lay off anyone unless it was necessary, particularly those with seniority, because their experience was very valuable. Councilmember Caletka disagreed and said that if an employee was valuable and should be kept if they did a good job not because of their seniority. Vice-Mayor Luis remarked that from his own experience, “the tendency is always to keep the person that’s been there longest, but as far as actually looking at numbers, even if you have somebody that’s been with you a long time, and if you’re paying a six-figure income, you can do away with him if you have somebody making less that can still do his job. So sometimes you have to look at the hard numbers and if you’re looking at laying off, sometimes it is the employee that’s been there a long time.” Councilmember Crowley wanted to concentrate on saving the employees they already had and not be so concerned with the vacant positions. Councilmember Caletka felt the only way to “eliminate the politics” during layoffs was to allow the administrator, not Council, to make decisions regarding who

should be laid off. Councilmember Starkey did not want lay offs unless there were no other alternatives.

Mayor Truex felt Council all agreed on the take home car policy. Councilmember Crowley objected and stated that he wanted to keep allowing staff and directors take home cars.

Mr. Shimun said staff would re-work the numbers, incorporating the input Council had provided.

Mr. Ackerman explained that the proposed ad valorem was “truly Amendment 1.” If Council went with the roll back rate, they would need an additional \$1million for next year’s budget.

Vice-Mayor Luis asked if “waste freeze” was being considered. Mr. Shimun said Council must consult with Mr. Rayson regarding what they could do with things the Town was already legally, contractually bound.

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Approved\_\_\_\_\_

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Mayor/Councilmember

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Town Clerk